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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3

In re the Application of

Ali LAAYOUN et al.

Application No.: 09/736,151

Filed: December 15, 2000

Docket No.: 104959

For: PROCESS FOR LABELING A NUCLEIC ACID

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/737,761, filed December 18, 2000, and 09/446,156, filed December 17, 1999, which are directed to related technical subject matter. Copies of these specifications are attached for the Examiner's convenience. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited applications and the art cited therein during examination of the present application.
- 3. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.

4. Before the invention of at least some of the present claims was made, embodiments of an invention made by the inventor Ali Laayoun and owned by the assignee Bio Merieux, namely one-step fragmentation of an RNA in the presence of MnCl₂ and imidazole to produce RNA fragments including terminal phosphates, and labeling the fragments at the freed terminal phosphates with bromofluorescein, in an aqueous mixture, were reduced to practice under confidentiality in the United States, and such invention was not abandoned, suppressed or concealed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 15, 2001

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